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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Thailand	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED] 25X1A
SUBJECT	Restriction of Rice Sales in Nong Khai Area 25X1A	DATE DISTR.	9 November 1953
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1X  
SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1. All rice purchases were restricted in the Nong Khai (N 17-55, E 103-05) area in early July 1953<sup>1</sup>. An order required both the rice purchasers and the shopkeepers selling rice to obtain a tax-stamped government permit<sup>2</sup> from the provincial governor's office.
2. With this order in effect, consumers found it difficult to make the usual purchase of a one-hundred kilogram sack of rice. In some cases the purchaser would have a two or three day delay before the permit was issued. Frequently, additional delay was encountered because the shopkeeper had no permit to sell, or was waiting for a permit to be granted. Some people, particularly those living in outlying areas, bought rice in any available quantity since permits were more quickly issued on smaller quantities. However, near the end of July, small purchases became more difficult because they were more rigidly controlled. As a result, families were not getting enough rice.
3. In mid-August, a supplement order was issued which allowed a maximum rice purchase of ten kilograms without a permit. Resentment has decreased with this present ruling, although the people are disgruntled at having to spend so much time buying rice.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comments

1. The restriction appears to be an attempt to discourage smuggling rice to the Laos side of the Mekhong River where it sells for three times the price in Thailand.
2. The consumer pays a tax of 1.25 baht on a hundred-kilogram sack of rice which costs about 150 baht.

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